

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05630 040816Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /085 W
-----015853 041214Z /72

R 040801Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 206
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 5630

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, CH, VM, PINR
SUBJECT: YEH CHIEN-YING IN CANTON -- MAY BE OVERSEEING REFUGEE
PROBLEM

REF: A) HONG KONG 5574; B) HONG KONG 5441 (NOTAL)

1. PRC MEDIA HAVE REPORTED, WITHOUT EXPLANATION, THAT VICE
CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING PARTICIPATED IN MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS
IN KWANGTUNG PROVINCE. IN VIEW OF YEH'S LONG HISTORY OF
RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS AND SINO-VIETNAMESE
RELATIONS, WE SPECULATE THAT HE MAYBE IN KWANGTUNG TO OVER-
SEE THE HANDLING OF THE CURRENT EXODUS INTO THAT PROVINCE OF
LARGE NUMBERS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE FROM VIETNAM (REF A), OR
AT LEAST TO SYMBOLIZE PEKING'S CONCERN OVER THIS PROBLEM.
YEH LIVED IN HANOI DURING HIS YOUTH (1912-1917), HAS HEADED
MANY MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO HANOI, AND COMMANDED
THE "VIETAMESE ASSISTANCE HEADQUARTERS" DURING THE LATE 1960'S.

2. OF COURSE YEH, WHO IS 80 YEARS OLD AND IN FRAIL HEALTH,
MAY ONLY BE IN HIS NATIVE PROVINCE TO REST. HE
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REPORTEDLY SPENT THE PAST WINTER THERE TO AVOID THE BITTER
COLD OF PEKING, BUT THAT REASON WOULD NO LONGER APPLY IN MAY.
IT IS VERY UNUSUAL FOR ONE OF PEKING'S TOP LEADERS TO
MISS THE MAY DAY CLEEBRATIONS IN PEKING, AND WE SUSPECT
THAT IF YEH HAD NOT HAD IMPORTANT BUSINESS IN KWANGTUNG
HE WOULD HAVE JOINED HIS FELLOW POLITBUR MEMBERS IN
THE CAPITAL.

SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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